

Living History

NEWSLETTER March 2012

Nature Notes

This Spring has been particularly warm with record temperatures in March and below average rainfall.

As a result the following unusual sightings were all seen around the Parish in **January**.

Fledged Blue Tits.

Daffodils in flower.

Bats in Yarpole village.

Primroses in flower.

Bumble Bees collecting nectar.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

We plan to have a display as part of the Parish Jubilee Celebration in July.

Any members with photos, souvenirs or reminiscences regarding the 1952 Accession, the 1953 Coronation or the 1977 Silver Jubilee that could be loaned for this display should contact Rhianon Turrell on 780677 or Ron Shaw on 780770.

Open Meeting

Our next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 18th April at the Parish Hall. Peter Holliday the former Leominster librarian will be giving a talk on **Victorian Leominster**, please come along and bring your friends and neighbours. Tickets are only £2.50; this includes a glass of wine and are available from the Shop or Norman Taylor on 780243.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2012 are now overdue. They can be paid to Audrey Bott either by leaving them at the shop addressed to her or sending them to

Audrey at Horizons, Green Lane, Yarpole (tel:01568780489) Cheques should be made out to “Living History” for £6.50.

Articles

The following articles accompany this edition of the *Newsletter*:

Lucton War Memorial by Ian Mortimer

Yarpole & Croft War Memorial by Ian Mortimer

Methodist Church by Tony Mears

We have an expanding programme of articles for future issues and we always welcome proposals for articles. Please contact the *Newsletter* editor – Ron Shaw on 01568 780770 if you would like to discuss possible articles or if you have contributions for the Newsletter.

Newsletter Editor

This is the first Newsletter to be edited by Ron Shaw, with much help and encouragement from John Turrell who had been editor for the last three years. Norman Taylor has undertaken to be our proof-reader so please bear with the new team while we become as proficient as the previous team. Many thanks John for all your hard work over the last 3 years.

Local History Event

Herefordshire Local History Societies are holding a 1-day event entitled “KINGTON’S INDUSTRIAL PAST” on Saturday 26th May. There will be 2 lectures and 4 guided tours as well as lunch all for £12. Booking details are available from Ron Shaw on 780770.

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Date of next meeting

See page 1 for details of the Open Meeting.

War Memorials

The Lucton War Memorial:

Living History



1914-18:

Thomas DAVIES
Pte. Montgomery Yeo.

James Philip LAWRENCE
Lnce.Cpl. 10th Shropshire

Thomas HAMMOND
Pte. 7th Manchester Regt.

Albert James PRINCE
Gunner Royal Garrison Artillery

William HUGHES
Pte. 28th Machine Gun Corps.

Frederick James PRINCE
Pte. 12th Gloucesters

1939-45:

Michael Gerald Hargreaves MAWSON Midshipman R N.

John MOLD

Pte. 1st K.S.L.I.

Remembered with Honour:

Private THOMAS DAVIES 3148, Montgomeryshire Yeomanry who died age 26 on 08 March 1916: Son of Mrs. M. A. Powell, of Yarpole, Herefordshire.

Remembered with honour GRANGEGORMAN MILITARY CEMETERY

Private JAMES PHILIP LAWRENCE 17781, "B" Coy. 10th (Shropshire and Cheshire Yeomanry) Bn., K. S. L. I. who died age 22 on 18 September 1918: Son of Thomas and Mary Lawrence, of Lucton Village, Kingsland, Herefordshire.

Remembered with honour VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL

Private THOMAS HAMMOND 53884, 2nd/7th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died age 26 on 21 November 1918: Son of George and Sarah Hammond, of Lucton; husband of Lilian Hammond, of The Bungalow, Lucton.

Remembered with honour CHARLEROI COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Gunner ALBERT JAMES PRINCE 160903, 226th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died age 20 on 17 November 1917: Son of Albert James and Eliza Ann Prince, of Lucton, Herefordshire.

Remembered with honour ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY

Private WILLIAM HUGHES 90309, 28th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died age 24 on 21 September 1917: Son of John and Mary Hughes, of Pitch Cottage, Ballsgate, Aymestrey, Herefordshire.

Remembered with honour TYNE COT MEMORIAL

Private JAMES W. PRINCE 32128, 12th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died age 28 on 05 May 1917: Son of Henry and Julia Prince, of Cockgate Lodge, Bircher, Leominster.

Remembered with honour ARRAS MEMORIAL

Midshipman (S) MICHAEL GERALD HARGREAVE MAWSON H.M.S. Neptune, Royal Navy who died age 20 on 19 December 1941: Son of Capt. Gerald Hargreave Mawson, M.C., and Mary Ruth Mawson, of Bedford.

Remembered with honour PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

Private JOHN PETER MOLD 4029442, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died age 34 on 26 June 1941: Son of Charles and Gertrude Mold; husband of Annie Mold, of Ludlow.

Remembered with honour LUDLOW NEW CEMETERY

Yarpole and Croft War Memorial:



1914-1918

George Bengree; Roderick Breeze; James Brooks; Percy Chamberlain; Charles Collett; Stanley Cross; Francis Dale; Arthur Gough; Edward Gough;

Charles Griffiths; Joseph James; Herbert Kevill Davies; Ernest Mitchell;

William Perkins; Joseph Pinches; Ernest Pinches; Charles Price; Russell Price; Jack Tomlinson; Cecil Wilkinson; Harry Wilkinson.

1939-1945

Wilfred Chamberlain; James Croft; William Kevill Davies; Leonard Mumby.

Private GEORGE BENGREE 73980, 16th Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died age 32 on 21 March 1918: Brother of Miss A. Bengree, of Yarpole, Leominster, Herefordshire.
Remembered with honour STE. EMILIE VALLEY CEMETERY, VILLERS- FAUCON

Private RODERICK BREEZE 6506, 7th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 14 April 1918
Remembered with honour PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL

Private JAMES JULIAN BROOKS 230437, 10th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died age 22 on 02 August 1918: Son of John and Hannah Brooks, of Bircher, Leominster.
Remembered with honour ST. VENANT-ROBECQ ROAD BRITISH CEMETERY, ROBECQ

Sergeant P. CHAMBERLAIN 141488, 71st Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 22 October 1919
Remembered with honour BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) WAR CEMETERY

Sapper C COLLETT 6798, 11th Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 11 January 1915
Remembered with honour LE TOURET MILITARY CEMETERY, RICHEBOURG-L'AVOUE

Lance Corporal S J CROSS 54681. 2nd Bn., Manchester Regiment who died age 22 on 24 July 1920 Son of John and Lillian Cross, of Bircher Common,
Remembered with honour BASRA MEMORIAL

Gunner FRANCIS DALE 201060, "A" Bty. 147th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died age 24 on 08 November 1918: Son of Mrs Frances Dale, of 8, North Rd., Leominster, Herefordshire.
Remembered with honour WRITTLE (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD

Private ARTHUR HENRY GOUGH 55211, 14th Bn., Welsh Regiment who died age 39 on 05 August 1917: Son of Arthur Edward and Jane Gough, of Bicton Pool, Yarpole, Leominster; husband of Jane Hannah Gough, of "Sunny Cot," Luston,
Remembered with honour YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Private EDWARD GOUGH 203152, 2nd/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died age 37 on 22 August 1917: Son of Arthur Edward Gough, of Yarpole, husband of Mary Thomasine Gough, of 4068, High St., Cheltenham.
Remembered with honour TYNE COT MEMORIAL

Corporal CHARLES GRIFFITHS 5338, 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers) who died on 31 October 1914 Medaille Militaire (France). Son of Sarah Griffiths, of Steps House, Yarpole,
Remembered with honour YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Private JOSEPH JAMES 14315, 7th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died age 25 on 13 November 1916
Remembered with honour SERRE ROAD CEMETERY No.1

Lieutenant WILLIAM ALBERT SOMERSET KEVILL-DAVIES 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers who died age 38 on 15 May 1915 Herbert. Son of Capt. W. Kevill-Davies (17th Lancers), of Croft Castle; husband of Dorothy Kevill-Davies (nee Lacon), of Croft Castle,
Remembered with honour BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION (NORD)

Private ERNEST MITCHELL 10803, "B" Coy. 5th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died age 29 on 29 November 1915: Son of the late Robert and Dorothy Mitchell.
Remembered with honour YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Private WILLIAM PERKINS 811446, 49th Bn., Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment) who died age 23 on 29 September 1918: Was formerly from Bircher
Remembered with honour VIMY MEMORIAL

Corporal JOSEPH PINCHES 26390, 5th Bn., South Wales Borderers who died age 28 on 30 January 1917: Son of George and Mary Ann Pinches, of Cockgate Farm, Bircher.
Remembered with honour COUIN BRITISH CEMETERY

Private E PINCHES 17819, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 30 November 1918: Son of George and Mary Ann Pinches, of Cockgate Farm, Bircher,
Remembered with honour GOSSELIES COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Private RUSSELL HARRY PRICE 9039, 2nd Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died age 25 on 02 March 1915: Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Price, of 1, Burgess Gardens, Burgess St., Leominster.
Remembered with honour YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Private J TOMLINSON 25010, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died age 34 on 20 November 1917: Husband of Ann Tomlinson, of Welshman's Lane, Bircher Common,
Remembered with honour RIBECOURT BRITISH CEMETERY

Private CECIL ALLAN WILKINSON 239543, 1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died age 23 on 26 July 1918: Son of Mr. W. R. and Mrs. J. W. Wilkinson, of Yarpole,
Remembered with honour RAPERIE BRITISH CEMETERY, VILLEMONTAIRE

Private HARRY WILFRED WILKINSON 16019, 7th Bn., Northamptonshire Regiment who died age 28 on 06 February 1917 Son of William Richard and Jane Wintel Wilkinson, of Yarpole,
Remembered with honour MAROC BRITISH CEMETERY, GRENAVY

1939 - 1945:

Gunner WILFRED CHAMBERLAIN 4104415, 2 Regt., Royal Horse Artillery who died age 27 between 10 May 1940 and 27 February 1941
Remembered with honour LILLE SOUTHERN CEMETERY

Captain SIR JAMES HERBERT CROFT 38190, King's Shropshire Light Infantry and No. 1, Commando who died age 34 on 15 August 1941: Son of Sir Herbert Archer Croft, 10th Bart., and Lady Croft (nee Parr)
Remembered with honour CROFT CASTLE GRAVE

Major WILLIAM TREVELYAN KEVILL-DAVIES MC 52589, 7th Queen's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps who died age 30 on 06 March 1942: Son of Herbert and Dorothy Kevill-Davies, of Chelsea, London.
Remembered with honour RANGOON MEMORIAL

Sergeant LEONARD SIDNEY MUMBY 1072102, 7 Field Regt., Royal Artillery who died age 32 on 07 June 1944: Son of Charles and Mary Mumby; husband of Marion Mumby, of Hounslow, Middlesex.
Remembered with honour RANVILLE WAR CEMETERY

Compiled by Ian Mortimer.



Methodist Church - Bircher and Yarpole Chapels

John Wesley (1708-1791) with his brother Charles were part of a group at Oxford that met regularly to pray, study the bible, receive communion and perform acts of charity. They became known as the “Holy Club” or Methodists

because of the methodical way they carried out their Christian faith. In 1738 John Wesley had, as he said, profound spiritual experiences (a storm at sea and meeting a Moravian sect). This inspired him to become a preacher; one of the greatest preachers of all time. In 1739 he began to preach to the poor and the working class outdoors in a field at Bristol. This became his fundamental way of preaching and in his lifetime he covered an estimated 200,000 miles doing so.

Primitive Methodism began in England in the early 1800s as an attempt to restore the Methodist revival begun under John Wesley. On May 31st 1807 two leaders, Hugh Bourne and William Clowes called for and aggressively promoted an American style evangelistic camp meeting, an all day prayer, song and preaching event. This meeting took its name from Mow Cop, a hill on the Staffordshire/Cheshire border where it was held. The leaders of the Wesleyan church found this innovation unacceptable and refused to allow any “Mow Cop” converts to join their church. Bourne and Clowes tried for two years to gain acceptance by the established church but without success and so they decided to form their own society, naming it “The Society of Primitive Methodists” because they desired to return to the roots of the Methodist movement. It was not until 1932 that both factions realised they had more in common than they first supposed and so reunited to form the present Methodist movement.

Today the Methodist church is the fourth largest Christian church in England. It has approximately 6000 churches with a total membership of around 300,000; worldwide some 70,000,000. The Methodist church is traditionally known as Nonconformist - ie. not conforming to the rules and regulations of the Church of England. There were both Primitive and Methodist chapels within Yarpole and Croft parish. The Primitive in Bircher, the Methodist in Yarpole.

Croft and Yarpole- Primitive Methodist Chapel

The Primitive Methodist Magazine of 1842 recounts that there was a camp meeting in the area in 1840 which was attended by several young men from the Bircher Common neighbourhood and following this a barn was donated to the cause by a Mr. Thomas Meredith. The barn was converted into a Chapel which opened for divine worship on Sunday August 8th 1841.



In 1964 it was agreed to transfer the Bircher Common Society from the Ludlow circuit to the Leominster circuit. In 1968 the Reverend Lewis suggested using the Chapel for conferences and alterations were made for this in 1972.

Barbara Griffiths, latterly of Lucton, said that her mother took over the running of the Chapel from Bill Richards, former proprietor of Yarpole shop and Post Office, and his wife both then living at nearby Yew Tree Farm. When her mother died Barbara took over the duties until the Chapel became unviable due to poor attendance. The Chapel was then sold and subsequently converted into a residence in 1976.

Croft and Yarpole Methodist Chapel



Miss Mary Mason, the Post Mistress, donated the land adjacent to the Post Office. The land was handed over to Mr. Charles Norgrove and Trustees in 1890. The building cost £235 and was designed to seat 135 people. Miss Mason performed the opening ceremony in 1891. A Sunday school was also organised by Miss Mason. Each Christmas the children were treated to a Christmas tree and gifts and in the summer to a picnic on Bircher Common with a local farmer providing a horse and dray for transport. In 1931 there was a Sunday service and one every third Thursday. By 1944 only 11 members remained and in 1954 there were 4. The Border Counties Commission Experiment recommended an amalgamation with a local Baptist Church. The Chapel finally closed in 1971 and was purchased by Mr. S Thompson of nearby Church cottage at auction.

Mr. Thompson used the building as a games room, a function room for family events and, in later years, for storage. Mr. Thompson passed away in 2009 and the ownership was transferred to his daughter. At the time of writing (2012) the Chapel was for sale.



The Pulpit with an original Oil Lamp



The key to the main entrance

Compiled by Tony Mears 2012